

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are now pending in the application. Claims 11-16 are now added. The new claims are fully supported by the application as filed and do not present new subject matter. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 / 103

Claims 1-5 and 7-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Choi et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,831,711). Claims 1-5 and 9-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Ozawa (U.S. App. No. 2003/0234897) and Higashiyama (U.S. App. No. 2003/0231483). Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ozawa, Choi et al., and Higashiyama in view of Sone (U.S. Pat. No. 6,816,217). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicant now submits a certified translation of Japanese Patent Application No. 2002-316081, which Applicant relies upon for priority. This Japanese patent application was filed on October 30, 2002. Therefore, Applicant's claim of priority to the October 30, 2002 priority date is now perfected.

Each of the Choi et al., Ozawa, Higashiyama, and Sone references were filed in the United States after Applicant's October 30, 2002 effective filing date. Because the U.S. filing dates of the cited references do not pre-date Applicant's October 30, 2002 effective filing date, the cited references are not prior art to Applicant's invention.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the Section 102 and Section 103 rejections.

NEW CLAIMS

Claims 11-16 are now added. The new claims are fully supported by the application as filed and do not include new subject matter. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests entry and consideration of the new claims.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: _____

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